

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00951 110905Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 /060 W

-----120612Z 007290 /20

R 110536Z MAY 77

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7782

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: COLOR PAINTING "WITH YOU IN CHARGE I'M AT EASE" PUBLISHED IN
PEOPLE'S DAILY

REF: (A) PEKING 867 (B) PEKING 871

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THE MAY 10 ISSUE OF PEOPLE'S DAILY FEATURES
A FULL-COLOR, HALF-PAGE PICTURE OF MAO'S "WITH YOU IN
CHARGE I'M AT EASE" BLESSING TO HUA KUO-FENG. ALONG WITH
IT ON THE PAPER'S INSERT PAGE IS AN EXPLANATORY ARTICLE
AUTHORED BY ONE HU WAN OF THE PEKING GARRISON. END SUMMARY

2. GETTING INTO STEP WITH THE KUANGMING DAILY EDITORIAL
BOARD (REF A) AND PARK ARTISTS (REF B), THE PEOPLE'S DAILY
ON MAY 10 DEVOTED HALF PAGE TO A REPRODUCTION OF THE NOW
STANDARD OIL PAINTING RENDITION OF THE CHAIRMAN MAO'S
BENEDICTORY "WITH YOU IN CHARGE I'M AT EASE" MESSAGE TO
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HUA KUO-FENG.

3. BUT THE PEOPLE'S DAILY HAS SUBTLY RENDERED THE EVENT MORE
ARTISTIC THAN POLITICAL. AN ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE OF
EXPLANATION, COMPOSED IN BREATHLESS STYLE BY ONE HU WAN
OF THE PEKING GARRISON, IS IDENTIFIED EXPLICITLY AS
AN ART CRITIQUE BY AN INSET OF AN ARTIST'S PALETTE

AND BRUSHES SUPERIMPOSED WITH THE CAPTION "NEW WORKS OF FINE ART".

4. HU'S DESCRIPTION OF THE SCENE ON APRIL 30, 1976 -- AND THE OIL PAINTING THAT DEPICTS -- IS IMAGINATIVELY ORTHODOX. HU CONJURES UP A VISION OF MAO, "FILLED WITH HOPE, ENCOURAGING COMRADE HUA KUO-FENG TO ASSUME THE WEIGHTY RESPONSIBILITY OF LEADING THE PARTY AND THE STATE". ADDRESSING MAO DIRECTLY, HU CLOSES WITH A "HEARTFELT" APPEAL TO "REST AT EASE, WE WILL CERTAINLY ADVANCE BOLDLY FOREVER WITH YOUR PERSONALLY SELECTING SUCCESSOR CHAIRMAN HUA AND LIFT UP YOUR GREAT BANNER."

5. COMMENT: DOMESTIC OPPONENTS OF PUBLICIZING MAO'S ALLEGED "WITH YOU IN CHARGE I'M AT EASE" BLESSING TO HUA HAVE BEEN CONFRONTED WITH A FAIT ACCOMPLI BY THE EVER-PROLIFERATING OIL PAINTING. BUT HU WAN'S "EXPLANATION" OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES DIFFERS NOTABLY FROM THE FUNDAMENTALIST (I.E. MAO REALLY SAID IT) EXPLANATIONS PUBLISHED IN PEOPLE'S DAILY LAST DECEMBER 17 AND DECEMBER 22. WHEREAS THE EARLIER VERSIONS MAKE PLAN THAT MAO'S REMARK WAS WRITTEN IN THE CONTEXT OF DISCUSSING THE ANTI-TENG CAMPAIGN IN THE PROVINCES, HU'S IDEALIZED ACCOUNT MERELY PROMOTES THE BELIEF THAT MAO DESIGNATED HUA HIS SUCCESSOR. WHETHER MAO REALLY PRONOUNCED (OR WROTE) THE SIX CHARACTERS IS SECONDARY, AND THE CONTEXT -- ANTHEM TO THE PRO-TENG FORCES -- IS ALTERED INTO SOMETHING BLURRY AND UNOBJECTIONABLE.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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